

APPLICANT(S): KOROL, Victor
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-19, 21-24, 26, 27, and 29-35 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 16 and 33 have been allowed. Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 20 25 and 28 are canceled. Claims 1, 8, 18 and 23 have been amended.

Claims 7, 14 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicant reserves all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action stated that claims 15, 16 and 33 are allowed, and that claims 7, 14, 28-32 and 34-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amended base claims 1, 8 and 23 to include the allowed subject matter of claims 7, 14 and 28, respectively. Claims 7, 14 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 8 and 23 correspond to allowed claims 7, 14 and 28, respectively, and include the same patentable features, with obvious changes to adapt to the format of the independent claims.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Gaynor et al. (US Patent 5,939,939) in view of Blodgett (US Patent 5,430,418).

Regarding amended independent claims 1 and 23, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully asserts that these amended independent claims include limitations corresponding to allowable dependent claims 7 and 28, respectively, now canceled, and should thus be in condition for allowance.

Regarding amended independent claim 18, it will be appreciated that this claim includes limitations corresponding to those of canceled claims 7, 14 and 28, which were indicated by the Office Action to be allowable in view of the prior art on record, including the cited references of Gaynor et al. and/or Blodgett, taken separately and/or in combination. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 18 should be in condition for allowance at least for the same reasons.

With Regard to claims 15 and 16, the Office Action indicated in Pages 1 and 6 that claims 15 and 16 are allowed. Furthermore, since the Office Action did not relate specifically to the subject matter of these claims, Applicant assumes that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) was an inadvertent error on in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request a confirmation that claims 15 and 16 are indeed allowed.

Applicant notes that claim 4 depends from claim 1, claims 19, 21 depend from claim 18 and claims 24, 26 and 27 depend from claim 23. Thus, in addition to any independent bases for patentability, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 27 are similarly patentable over all the cited reference by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 5, 6 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Gaynor et al. (US Patent 5,939,939) in view of Blodgett (US Patent 5,430,418) in combination with Kobayashi (US Patent 6,252,463).

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Applicant notes that claims 5 and 6 depend from amended independent claim 1 and claim 22 depends from amended independent claim 23. Thus, in addition to any independent bases for patentability, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 6 and 22 are similarly patentable over all the cited reference by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Gaynor et al. (US Patent 5,939,939) in view of Blodgett (US Patent 5,430,418) in combination with Bishop (US Patent 6,337,666).

Regarding amended independent claim 8, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully asserts that amended independent claim 8 includes limitations corresponding to allowable dependent claim 14 now canceled, and should thus be in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that claims 9 and 11 depend from claim 8. Thus, in addition to any independent bases for patentability, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 and 11 are similarly patentable over the cited reference by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Gaynor et al. (US Patent 5,939,939) in view of Blodgett (US Patent 5,430,418) in view of Bishop (US Patent 6,337,666) in combination with Kobayashi (US Patent 6,252,463).

Applicant notes that claims 12 and 13 depend from amended independent claim 8. Thus, in addition to any independent bases for patentability, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 13 are similarly patentable over the cited reference by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

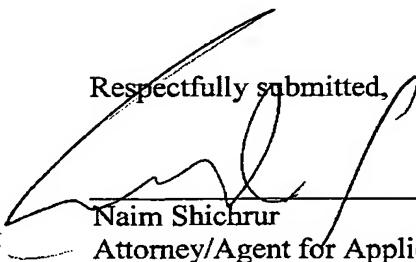
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the

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prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.


Respectfully submitted,
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